

Primary Examiner Griffin:

This is in response to an outstanding Office Action in the above-identified application mailed DECEMBER 12, 2002, with a shortened statutory period for response of three (3) months, set to  
5 expire MARCH 12, 2003.

Assistant Commissioner for Patents is authorized to withdraw any additional moneys required for this purpose from Deposit Account No. 01-0528.

Please enter the following amendments.

10

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Kindly amend Claims 1, 4, and 13 to read as follows:

1. A process for the production of refinery transportation fuel or blending components for refinery transportation fuel, which  
15 process comprises:

providing an oxidation feedstock comprising a mixture of hydrocarbons, sulfur-containing and nitrogen-containing organic compounds, which mixture has a gravity ranging from about 10° API to about 100° API and is a product of a hydrotreating process  
20 for petroleum distillate;

contacting the oxidation feedstock with an immiscible phase comprising at least one organic peracid or precursors of organic peracid, in a liquid reaction mixture maintained substantially free of catalytic active metals and/or active metal-containing  
25 compounds and under conditions suitable for oxidation of one or more of the sulfur-containing and/or nitrogen-containing organic compounds; and

separating at least a portion of the immiscible peracid-containing phase from the reaction mixture;

30 treating the immiscible peracid-containing phase separated from the reaction mixture to remove at least a portion of the

*B1* sulfur-containing and nitrogen-containing organic compounds contained therein; and

recovering a product comprising a mixture of organic compounds containing less sulfur and/or less nitrogen than the  
5 oxidation feedstock from the reaction mixture.

*B2* 4. The process according to claim 1 further comprising recycling at least a portion of the treated peracid-containing phase to the reaction mixture.

*B3* 10 13. The process according to claim 12 wherein at least a portion of the separated peracid-containing phase is treated to remove at least a portion of the sulfur-containing and nitrogen-containing organic compounds contained therein, and thereafter recycled to the reaction mixture.

15

#### REMARKS

This amendment is respectfully submitted to place subject Application in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 4, and 13 have been amended to more distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

20 In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to include a step of treating the immiscible peracid-containing phase after separation from the reaction mixture to remove at least a portion of the sulfur-containing and nitrogen-containing organic compounds contained therein. Support for this amendment is found in the  
25 Specification, for example, at page 27, lines 20 to 24.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite "the process according to claim 1 further comprising recycling at least a portion of the treated peracid-containing phase to the reaction mixture" which is consistent with amended Claim 1.